

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-4, 6, 12-16, 18-22, 24 and 36-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by JP 2000029900 A to Ichikawa et al. ("Ichikawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to a method and system for management of chemical materials. As such, independent claim 1 recites a method for management of chemical materials by *inter alia* "providing a first data set containing which substances comprise said materials," "providing a second data set containing which of said substances are to be controlled" and "providing a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process." Independent claim 1 also recites "analyzing a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said first and second data set," "determining an emissions quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said controlled substances" and "maintaining said third data set according to a preset interval of time." Independent claims 7 and 12 recite "analyzing a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said first and second data sets" and "determining an emissions quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said controlled substances."

Independent claim 19 recites a "system for management of chemical materials" comprising *inter alia* "a server" having "a first data set containing which substances comprise said materials," "a second data set containing which of said substances are to be controlled" and "a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process." Independent claim 19 also recites that the server is "in communication with a processor" which is programmed to "analyze a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said first and second data sets," "determine an emissions quantity of said

controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said controlled substances” and “maintain said third set of data according to a preset interval of time.”

Independent claims 36-38 recite a “system for management of chemical materials” comprising “a first data set containing which substances comprise said materials,” “a second data set containing which of said substances are to be controlled” and “a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process.” Independent claims 36-38 also recite that the first and second data sets are “being utilized to analyze a preset amount of said materials in said process and determine a quantity of said controlled substances” and that the ratio and quantity of the controlled substances are “being utilized to determine an emissions quantity of said controlled substances.”

Ichikawa relates to a component database 107 formed of plural sites 101, 108, 109 producing various products by the name of a product D or by the names of constituent materials A to C of the product D when the product D has not been registered yet, extracted specified substance names P, Q and their contents are obtained to acquire the specified substances included in the product D and their contents (a substance database 104). According to Ichikawa, “[w]hen the product D has not been registered yet, the specified substances P, Q including D as a material name and their contents are registered in the component database 107.” In this manner, “[s]ince a product can be easily retrieved from material names to be used for the product, the system can be utilized in all sites where the product is distributed and easily managed by the PRTR [pollutant removal/transfer registration] or the like.”

Ichikawa fails to disclose all limitations of claims 1-4, 6, 12-16, 18-22, 24 and 36-39. Ichikawa fails to teach or suggest “providing a first data set containing which substances comprise said materials,” “providing a second data set containing which of said substances are to be controlled” and “providing a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process,” as independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 39 recite. Ichikawa teaches that “component database 107 consists of material name field

107a, specification matter name field 107b, and content field 107c.” (Ichikawa at ¶[0024]). Thus, Ichikawa teaches providing only component database 107, which would arguably correspond to the step of “providing a first data set containing which substances comprise said materials” of the claimed invention; Ichikawa fails, however, to teach or suggest “providing a second data set containing which of said substances are to be controlled,” much less “providing a second data set containing which of said substances are to be controlled” and “providing a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process,” as independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 39 recite.

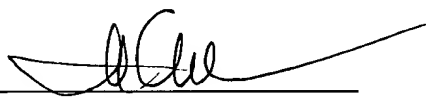
Ichikawa also fails to teach or suggest a “system for management of chemical materials” comprising “a first data set containing which substances comprise said materials,” “a second data set containing which of said substances are to be controlled” and “a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process,” as independent claims 19 and 36-38 recite. As noted above, Ichikawa teaches only component database 107, which would arguably correspond to the “first data set” of the claimed invention, but not the other two data sets recited in independent claims 19 and 36-38. For at least these reasons, Ichikawa fails to disclose all limitations of claims 1-4, 6, 12-16, 18-22, 24 and 36-39, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 7-11, 17, 23 and 25-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ichikawa in view of Sturgeon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,884) (“Sturgeon”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Each of claims 5, 7-11, 17, 23 and 25-35 recites the limitations discussed above, and should be allowable for at least the reasons above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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